

# IN FORMATION

187th Fighter Wing

Vol. 3, No. 11 November 2014





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187th Fighter Wing Commander  
187th Fighter Wing Vice Commander  
187th Fighter Wing Command Chief

**Col. Samuel Black**  
**Col. William Sparrow**  
**Chief Master Sgt. Lindsey McCall**

Chief of Public Affairs  
Public Affairs Officer

**Lt. Col. Clare Reed**  
**Capt. Amy Rittberger**

Photojournalist  
Photojournalist  
Videojournalist

**Tech. Sgt. Chris Baldwin**  
**Tech. Sgt. Matthew Garrett**  
**Tech. Sgt. Monique Randall**



### ON THE COVER >>

*Group photo of members currently deployed.*

IN FORMATION is the official publication of the 187th Fighter Wing, Alabama Air National Guard. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force, or the National Guard.

The content is edited, prepared and provided by the 187th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, Dannelly Air National Guard Base. All photographs are Air Force/ AL ANG photographs unless otherwise indicated.

## "Honor Your Hero"

**Purchase a  
187th Fighter Wing  
Commemorative Brick.**



**Bricks:**  
These beautiful, engraved commemorative clay brick pavers can be purchased for \$30.00.

**Size:**  
(4"X8")

**Installation:**  
Bricks will be ordered when a minimum of 100 brick orders are pending. The bricks will be installed and placed at Memorial Park.

**Personalization:**  
Bricks have a three line maximum; with no more than 18 uppercase letters per line, including spaces and punctuation. Finished bricks will be centered. Please use proper rank. No logos or graphics.

**\*Please make checks payable to:**  
**1SGT Council**

**You may pay via paypal  
by visiting the website :**  
<http://www.187fw1sgt.donationbricks.com>

This fundraiser was initiated by the 1SGT Council to raise monies for wing morale events. It is an excellent way to recognize a devoted career, to honor service, or acknowledge the dedication and support of families and family members.

*Submission deadline for the December 2014 publication is December 5<sup>th</sup>. Articles must be submitted electronically to [187FW.PA@ang.af.mil](mailto:187FW.PA@ang.af.mil) or [187fw.pa@gmail.com](mailto:187fw.pa@gmail.com). For more information, contact Public Affairs at (334) 394-7157.*





# COMMANDER'S CORNER

## Never lose focus on why we remember; thank a Veteran

by Col. Samuel Black  
Commander, 187th Fighter Wing



As we approach Veteran's Day, we are often bombarded with advertisements for free meals, drinks and discounted admissions; but for those of us who have served our great nation in uniform, it is also an opportunity to reflect on what this day is really about.

Veteran's Day is a time to remember those who have served, or are currently serving. Many Americans, past and present, have raised their right hand and sworn to protect the United States of America-- no matter the cost. In recent years, we have seen that the "cost" has included giving their lives. This is an obligation that we all take, freely and without reservation, because we love our country and believe in freedom.

The sacrifices we make to protect our freedoms are countless. These sacrifices are especially brought to mind here at the 187th Fighter Wing as we prepare to welcome home more than 300 of our Airmen. They have been away from their families, friends and all the comforts of home for six months supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. We look forward to welcoming them home with music, posters and pats on the back for a job well done.

One small act of gratitude we can all do, for any veteran, is to simply say, "Thank you." Take a moment to imagine yourself in a foreign country missing birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and even the birth of your child. Those of us who serve know the odds of missing an important event or milestone of a loved one is almost guaranteed, yet we still say, "I will go."

So let me say thank you to each and every one of you who serve our great nation. Thank you for all that you do each and every day. Your hard work and sacrifices do not go unnoticed. Your excellence is unsurpassable. You represent the state of Alabama, and this country well.

Enjoy your day off, and the free meals, and never forget why we serve.







# AROUND THE PATTERN



## Only 15 credit hours to your CCAF AAS degree

Submitted by Senior Master Sgt. David Betts,  
Human Resource Advisor 187th Fighter Wing

**Find out where you are, submit corrections and obtain a copy.  
100% accountability is expected. First Sergeants are cross-checking  
and verifying.**

- 1. If you are not sure what your educational level is being reported as, you can look it up on your vRED (via vMPF).
- 2. If you need to have it updated to reflect your current status, send an official transcript of your highest degree to your CSS.
- 3. Please follow-up with the process until you confirm the transcript was received. The transcript must be officially sent in a sealed envelope from your college or university registrar's office. (Note: This may cost some members a nominal fee.)
- 4. The student's degree award date is the date the CCAF Administrative Center receives the completed AF Form968, CCAF Action Request, nominating the student for graduation in a specific CCAF degree program.

	AB	1st	2nd	3rd
AD	0.41%	0.25%	0.77%	7.65%
ANG	0.00%	0.00%	0.07%	2.93%
AFRC	0.09%	0.00%	0.20%	3.63%

It's the Community College of the Air Force, and all enlisted personnel are already enrolled! Earning an Associate of Applied Science degree is simple, since a great portion of it is already complete, merely by having attended Basic Military Training, Technical School and being awarded your 5-level. Airman Leadership School, the NCO Academy, the SNCO Academy and earning your 7-level helps. All this training is worth something ... college credits which can lead to a degree ... your degree! Why not take advantage of the educational possibilities afforded to you and complete your degree?

Your major is based on your Air Force Specialty Code. Aircraft maintainers study aviation maintenance technology. Security forces members work toward a degree in criminal justice. You need 64 credits to graduate, earning all but 15 credits by doing your job well. The 15 credits CCAF does not offer are for courses without specific military purposes. They are taught at most civilian colleges — humanities, social science, writing, speech and math. Many of us don't get that CCAF degree because we never earn those 15 credits.

There it is! Everything you need to help you get closer to your goal ... a degree from the Community College of the Air Force.

"This is an Air Force institution and basically certifies that you are proficient in your career field," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy told Air Force Times.

187FW POC: Master Sgt. Patricia Truss @ 334-394-7457 or [patricia.truss@ang.af.mil](mailto:patricia.truss@ang.af.mil)  
Force Development Team

References:  
100 South Turner Boulevard  
Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Alabama 36114-3011  
Point of Contact: (334) 649-extension DSN: 749-extension  
Fax: (334) 649-5101/5106  
CCAF Transcripts:  
Phone: (334) 649-5066

Degree-specific program goals and learning outcomes can be found in the Web version of the CCAF General Catalog at [http:// www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/) under the Degree Programs section.

Contact Information  
334.394.7178 ALANG commercial  
[David.betts.1@ang.af.mil](mailto:David.betts.1@ang.af.mil)  
Office Location:  
187FW Headquarters, Bldg. 1502 (Upstairs- East)





# AROUND THE PATTERN



## COMMAND CHIEF FACTS

### New CCAF Degree Requirement

#### The Bottom Line:

Beginning in October 2015, the Air National Guard will mandate every Airman promoted to E-8 and E-9 to have a CCAF degree. To ensure you aren't negatively affected, verify that your transcripts are up to date or start planning now to earn your CCAF degree.

#### Why:

We should have one standard throughout the Air Force and this change holds the ANG to the same benchmark as the rest of the force.

#### How:

Contact your school's registrar and request your transcripts be sent to:

- 1) Your unit's Base Education and Training Manager.
- 2) CCAF (<http://www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/faq.asp#civcredit>).

#### Who/What:

Many career decisions, including promotion, take education into consideration. This affects every Airman within the ANG throughout their military career. The ANG will not recognize Airmen as having met this requirement unless transcripts are recorded in MilPDS.

#### When:

This requirement takes effect on Oct. 1, 2015.

#### Online Resources:

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/barnes/ccaf/index.asp> - CCAF website

Additional links to assist members with college or educational goals:

<http://www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html> - DANTES website

<http://clep.collegeboard.org/military> - Clep website

<https://www.khanacademy.org> - Khan Academy – free instruction

<http://military.tutor.com/> - Online tutoring for military families

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil> – Educational Resources

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

#### Timeline

OCT 2015

All members are required to have a CCAF degree for promotion to E-8 or E-9.

#### Senior Leader Perspectives

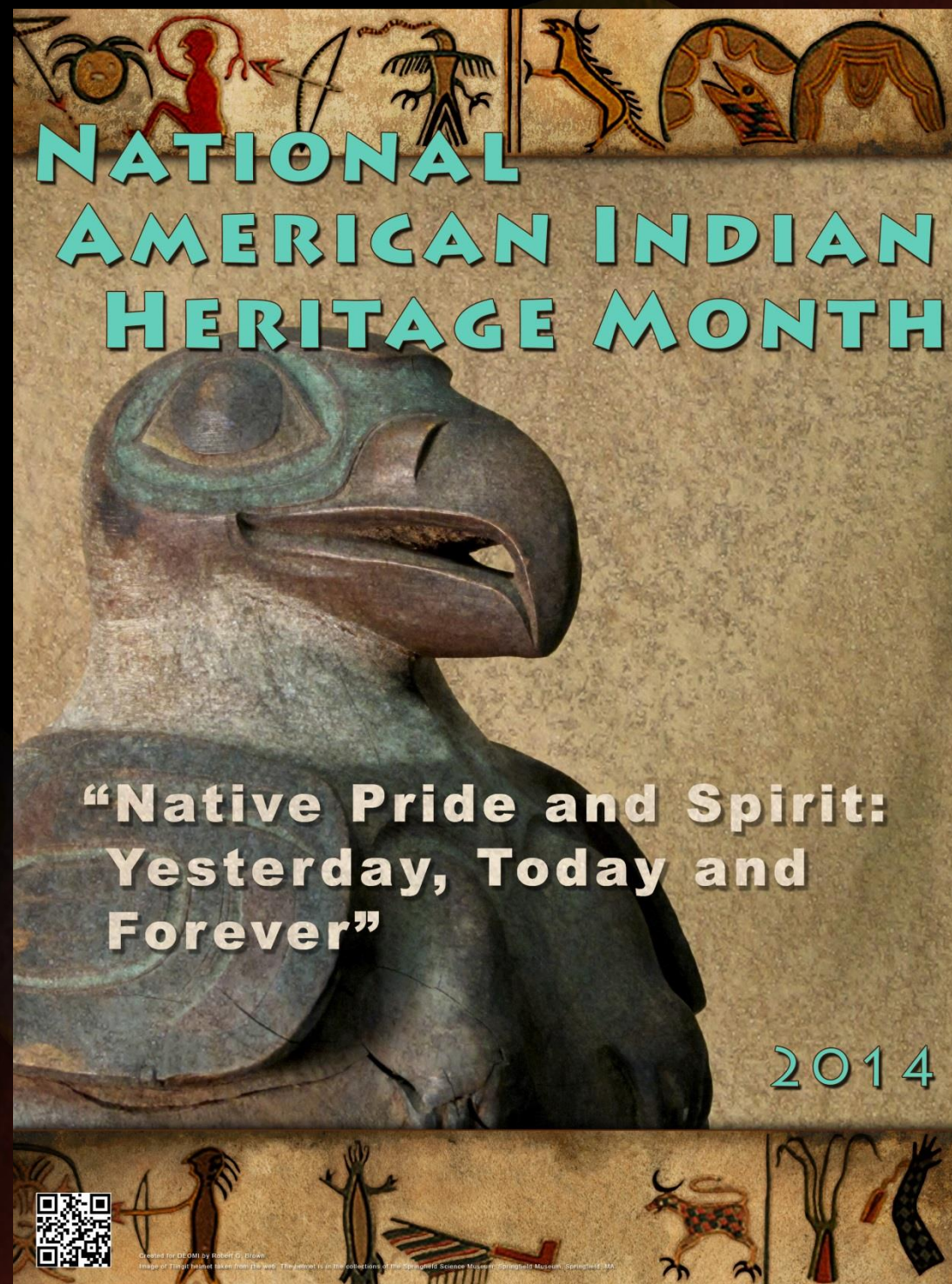
"Education is what keeps our Airmen and our Air Force at the leading edge of change."

-Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force  
James A. Cody

"To maintain superior agility in the future, the education and training of Airmen must be continuous, relevant and responsive."

-Chief Master Sgt. James W. Hotaling, Command Chief, Air National Guard

# NOVEMBER is...





# AROUND THE PATTERN

## Officers' Promotion Matrix

Promotion to Grade	Unit Vacancy	Mandatory	Required PME
Colonel / O-6	3 years	Not Applicable	Air War College
Lieutenant Colonel / O-5	4 years	7 years	Air Command & Staff College
Major / O-4	4 years	7 years	Squadron Officer School
Captain / O-3	2 years	3 years	None
1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenant / O-2	2 years	2 years	None

## Congratulations CCAF Graduates!

Senior Master Sgt. Kristie J. Pomilia - FW  
 Tech. Sgt. Larry N. Barker - AMXS  
 Tech. Sgt. Oliver B. Beasley - 280 SOCS  
 Tech. Sgt. Tavares D. Childs - MDG  
 Tech. Sgt. Stephen C. Hanson - 232 CBCS  
 Staff Sgt. Eric L. Lasseter - 280 SOCS  
 Staff Sgt. Derica S. Whatley - SFS

## Enlisted Promotion Requirement Matrix



"Successful People use Their Strength by Recognizing, Developing and Utilizing the Talents of Others."

"Talent unused is a picture of frustration."

"Infect as many as you can with your positive attitude." - Col. Samuel W. Black.



R U L E	Promotion to	Required PAFSC	Time in Service (TIS) of at least	Time in Grade (TIG) of at least (Note 5)	Mandatory education requirements	Promotion retainability requirement
1 	E-2 (Amn) Airman	3-skill level	6 months (Note 4)	6 months	Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT)	None
2 	E-3 (A1C) Airman First Class	3-skill level	12 months (1 year) (Note 4)	6 months (Note 6)	IADT	None
3 	E-4 (SrA) Senior Airman	3-skill level	24 months (2 years) (Notes 2 and 4)	12 months (1 year) (Notes 2 and 6)	IADT	None
4 	E-5 (SSgt) Staff Sergeant	5-skill level (or 3-level when no 5-level exists in the AFSC)	48 months (4 years)	24 months (2 years)	ALS (Note 7)	None
5 	E-6 (TSgt) Technical Sergeant	7-skill level	72 months (6 years) (Note 3)	24 months (2 years)	ALS (Note 7)	None
6 	E-7 (MSgt) Master Sergeant	7-skill level	108 months (9 years) (Note 3)	24 months (2 years)	Noncommissioned Officer Academy (NCOA)	AGR - 24 months (2 years) All others - 12 months (1 year)
7 	E-8 (SMSgt) Senior Master Sergeant	7-skill level (Note 1)	156 months (13 years) (Note 3) EPP: 204 months (17 years)	24 months (2 years)	Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA) (Note 8)	24 months (2 years) EPP - 36 months (3 years)
8 	E-9 (CMSgt) Chief Master Sergeant	9-skill level (Note 1)	204 months (17 years) (Note 3)	24 months (2 years)		24 months (2 years) EPP - 36 months (3 years)
9 	Wounded Warrior (WW2) All Grades (Note 9)	Applicable Skill level for grade to be promoted to (Note 9)	Applicable TIS for grade to be promoted to (Notes 3 and 9)	Applicable TIG for grade to be promoted to (Note 9)	Applicable to the grade to be promoted to (Note 9)	Applicable to grade to be promoted to (Note 9)

Notes:

- Promotion of the State Recruiting and Retention Superintendent (RRS) will require 9-skill level certification by the commander.
- Effective 1 April 2006, any member accessed into the ANG on or after this date must have 12 months TIG as an A1C (E-3) and 24 months TIS to be promoted to SrA (E-4).
- TIS computations for all promotions will be based on satisfactory years of service for retirement.
- TIS is computed from the date the member enters IADT status. The source document for determining IADT is the TTS order or a completed DD Form 214.
- Only satisfactory years of service for retirement will be used to meet TIG requirements.
- TIG is computed from the date the member enters IADT status. The source document for determining IADT is the TTS order or a completed DD Form 214.
- This requirement applies to ANG members enlisted from other branches of the Armed Forces, regardless of the level of PME attained during their prior service.
- Completion of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy or the United States Navy Senior Enlisted Academy is equivalent to SNCOA.
- Wounded Warrior (WW2) Classification: Although not world-wide qualified and not passing fitness based on their status, those members classified as WW2 are eligible for promotion provided they meet all other mandatory requirements including sole incumbency of a vacant position.





# AROUND THE PATTERN

## SGLI Premium Rates Increase

SGLI Premium Adjustment Effective July 1, 2014

Posted 4/28/2014 Updated 4/28/2014

4/28/2014 - WASHINGTON -- The Service members' Group Life Insurance program will adjust its monthly premium rate from 6.5 cents per \$1,000 back to the 2006 rate of seven cents per \$1,000 of insurance, a modest increase to ensure the SGLI program remains in a strong financial position.

The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to place the interests of Service members first and foremost by keeping SGLI premiums as low as possible while also maintaining the necessary reserve levels to ensure funds are available to pay claims to Service members' beneficiaries. Since the start of the SGLI Program in 1965, monthly premiums have decreased from 20 cents per \$1,000 to the current 6.5 cents per \$1,000. There have been periodic increases and decreases, but over the past 30 years premiums have fluctuated only 2.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance.

In order for the program to remain in good financial condition, it is now necessary to increase the premium rate by half a cent per \$1,000 of insurance. Since 2008, as a result of the half-cent reduction and decreases in interest rates, reserve funds have decreased. Insurance companies hold reserve funds to ensure they can pay future claims. It is common practice in the group insurance industry to adjust premium rates as reserve funds increase and decrease. VA also uses actuaries, individuals who deal with financial impact of risk, to conduct program experience studies when evaluating and adjusting reserve assumptions; and each year, an independent auditor verifies the accuracy of their reserve calculations.

For a Service member with the maximum \$400,000 of life insurance, this change will mean an increase of two dollars a month.

The new premium rate will take effect on July 1, 2014. Individual Ready Reserve members who are drilling for points toward retirement or who do not receive pay for other reasons will be billed by their branch of service for the higher premium beginning in July 2014. For information on the new rates, visit <http://benefits.va.gov/insurance/sgli.asp>.

### Cost/Rates

If you have SGLI coverage, you pay a monthly premium that is automatically deducted from your base pay. The current basic SGLI premium rate is 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance. The premium includes an additional \$1.00 per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage ([TSGLI](#)). Effective July 1, 2014, SGLI premiums are increasing from 6.5 cents per month per \$1,000 to 7 cents per month per \$1,000.

### SGLI Premium Rates July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2014

Coverage Amount	Monthly premium rate	TSGLI Premium	Total Monthly Premium Deduction
400,000	\$26.00	\$1.00	\$27.00
350,000	\$22.75	\$1.00	\$23.75
300,000	\$19.50	\$1.00	\$20.50
250,000	\$16.25	\$1.00	\$17.25
200,000	\$13.00	\$1.00	\$14.00
150,000	\$9.75	\$1.00	\$10.75
100,000	\$6.50	\$1.00	\$7.50
50,000	\$3.25	\$1.00	\$4.25



# CHAPLAIN



## *Another Chance!*

Submitted by Tech. Sgt. Donald McLeod

People often take things for granted, husbands take their wives, wives take their husbands, and kids take their parents for granted. But one thing that should never be taken for granted is LIFE, you're here today but, you can be gone tomorrow in the blink of an eye. My family and I was traveling to Birmingham, AL to watch my son play in the band, when an 18 wheel tractor trailer truck heading south bound left the highway and crossed the median and headed straight toward us. But God stepped in and blocked the collision, instead the truck stayed in the median and bypassed the traffic heading north bound. And nobody was hurt, harmed, nor killed in what would have been a head on collision. Realizing it was all God, we knew that we had been given another chance to see another day. As a child I was taught to always be thankful for every day I open my eyes and see a brand new day. I can remember talking with elderly people growing up and asking them what was their secrets to growing old. There were many different answers given to me, but the one I remember the most was from an old lady I always loved to talk with. I didn't understand it then because of my youth, but the older I grew the more sense it made to me. She said, regardless of what kind of day you have scheduled, no matter how hard it may seem to be, it's a good day. No matter if everything goes wrong for you, it's still a good day. No matter what people may say about you, it's still a good day. No matter what kind of hills you have to climb, it's still a good day. She said because "ANY DAY ABOVE GROUND IS A GOOD DAY".







# ABSENTEE VOTING

Deployed Wing Members,

Please exercise your right to vote by submitting your Absentee Voting application to your county election office.

Alabama voters please visit <http://www.alabamavotes.gov/uocavavoterinstructions.aspx?m=voters>

Members who live in another state please visit <http://www.fvap.gov/>

It's not too early to register for Absentee Voting, as a matter of fact the earlier the better.

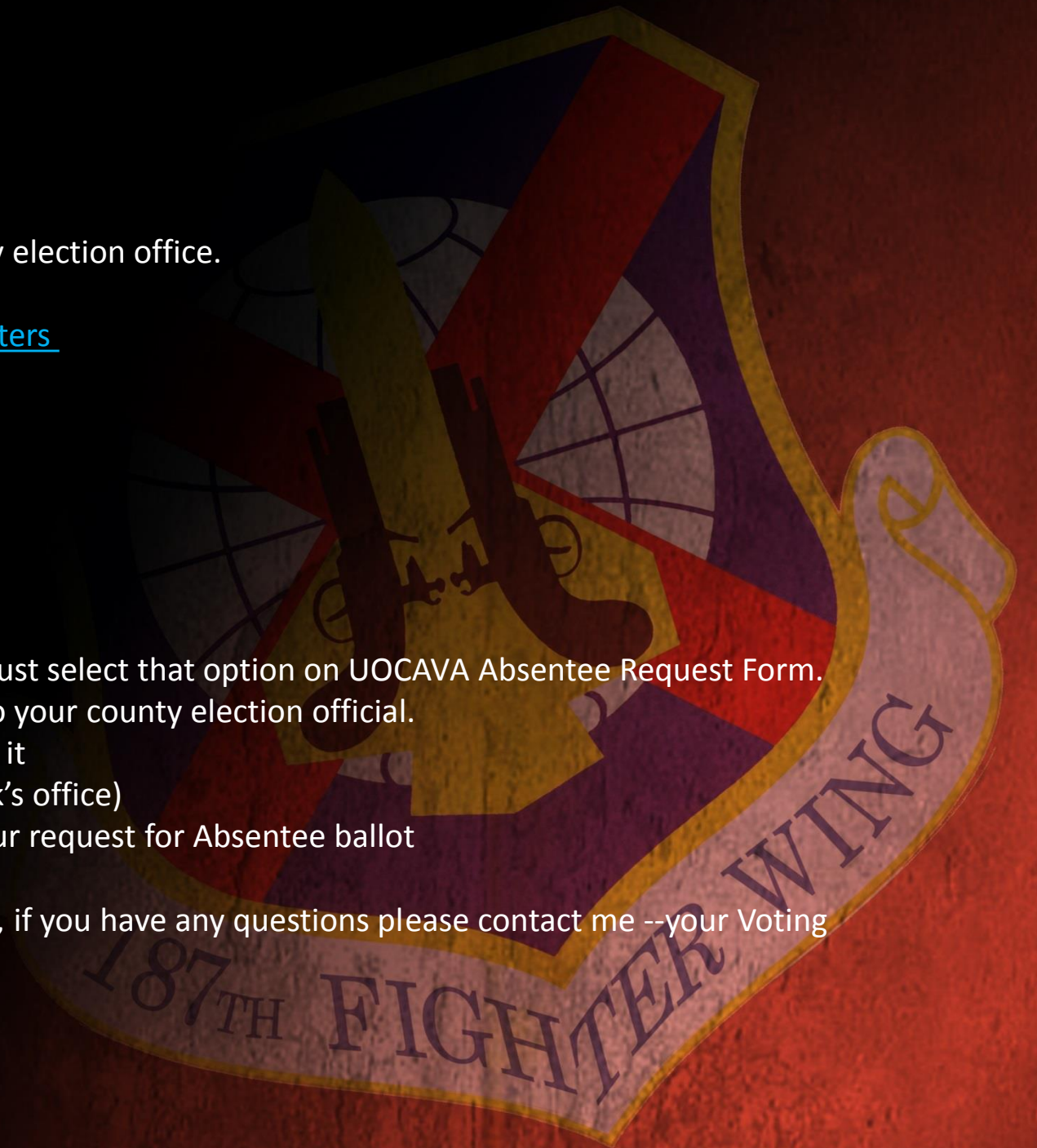
Other useful information:

- Currently all requests must be mailed to the county election official.
- Under Federal Law, you can decide to have the federal portion of the ballot emailed to you. Must select that option on UOCAVA Absentee Request Form.
- You must hand mail both parts of the Ballot via U.S. Mail or Commercial Carrier(UPS, Fed-Ex) to your county election official.
- The best way to fill-out your Absentee ballot is utilizing the online assistant then print and mail it
- Municipal elections are not covered under this process (You must apply through your City Clerk's office)
- The preferred method to receive your ballot is via email. However, you must specify this on your request for Absentee ballot

The websites above are very helpful and walk you through the process pretty clearly . However, if you have any questions please contact me --your Voting Assistance Officer-- [via email](#) or cell at 334-657-5485.

Respectfully,

Charles P. Griggs, Lt Col, AL ANG  
Wing VAO/MSG-Dep CC







Senior Airmen Eric Morris and Shatoria Hunt recently graduated from Airman Leadership School Class 14-7 at Maxwell AFB., Ala. Sept. 23, 2014. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Christopher Baldwin)





# PT SCORES & FITNESS

*Fitness Honors*

*The following individuals scored EXCELLENT during last month's Fitness Assessment.*

**EXCELLENTS**

CPT	Stephen Elrod	AMXS
A1C	Shameka Manuel	100FS
TSG	Gova Morales	COMM
A1C	Barry Jackson	COMM
COL	Robert Clark	MDG
MSG	Denise Jewell	MDG
SSG	Elissa Helms	MDG
SRA	Lauren Rosenhoover	MDG
CPT	Rebecca Mckenzie	LRS
MSG	Freddie Grant	LRS
MSG	Rick Nickolson	LRS
TSG	Jeremy Hernandez	LRS
SRA	Henry Cooke	LRS
MSG	Robert Dunsmore	MXS
MSG	Haywood McGuire	MXS
TSG	James Knighton	MXS
SSG	Jonathan McGough	MXS

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



187TH FIGHTY





# VACANCIES

## *Air National Guard Technician*

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>ANNC NUMBER</u>	<u>CLOSEOUT DATE</u>
SUPERVISORY PRODUCTION CONTROLLER (AIRCRAFT)	ALAF14-200	11/6/14
DEPUTY AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE OFFICER	ALAF14-201	11/6/14
AIRPLANE FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR	ALAF14-207	11/13/14
AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC	ALAF14-211	11/17/14
ARCFT SURVIVAL FLIGHT EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST	ALAF14-214	11/24/14
FUEL DISTRUBUTION SYSTEM WORKER	ALAF14-217	11/21/14
FUEL DISTRUBUTION SYSTEM WORKER	ALAF14-218	11/21/14

*Click the link below for more available jobs*

<http://alguard.state.al.us/Careers/HRO/jobannouncements/default.aspx>





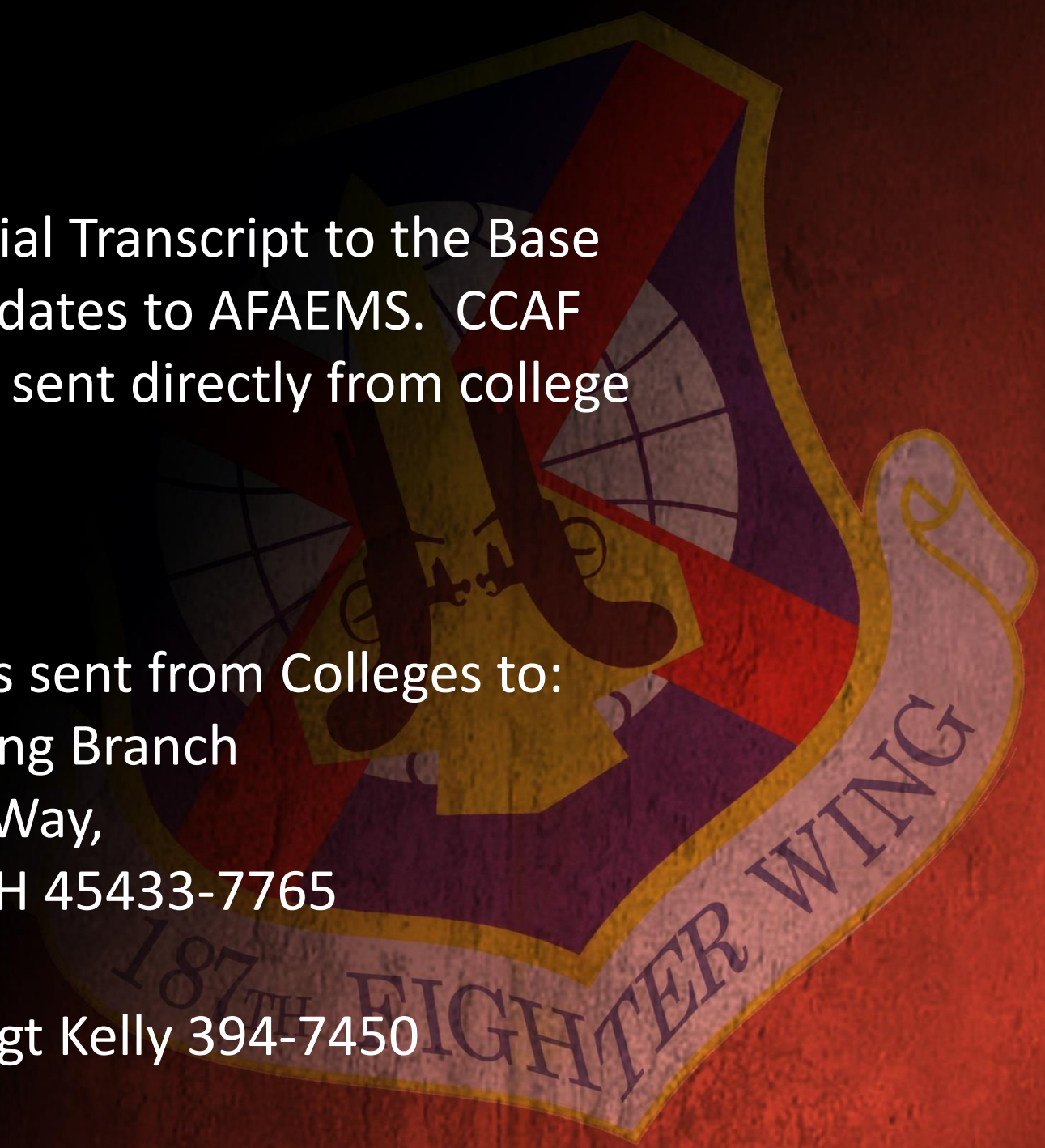


## Does your Education Level need to be updated?

**Enlisted:** Bring a copy of your Official Transcript to the Base Education & Training Office for updates to AFAEMS. CCAF updates, official transcripts must be sent directly from college to CCAF.

**Officers:** Have Official Transcripts sent from Colleges to:  
AFIT Academic Coding Branch  
2950 Hobson Way,  
Wright Patterson AFB OH 45433-7765

Base Training Contact: SMSgt Kelly 394-7450







# TOUCH & GOs

## 2014 UTA SCHEDULE

Next Drill is *December 6-7*

**Reminder: Don't forget to take advantage of the on base gas pumps; it contributes to the wing's morale fund for YOU!**

## JOIN THE HONOR GUARD



If you are interested in learning about opportunities with the Base Honor Guard, contact [Staff Sgt. Christina Lee](#)





# REMINDERS & NOTICES



## IMPORTANT NOTICE



In accordance with the ALNG TAG'S Policy Letter dated 21 November 2013, Privately Owned Weapons (POWs) are allowed on ALNG installations. Members must adhere to the following to comply with the policy:

- POWs are **NOT** allowed until member receives a commander's brief,
- POWs are **NOT** allowed until member signs a statement of understanding,
- POWs are **NOT** allowed inside any building,
- POWs must be stored in a locked privately owned vehicle,
- Members must be eligible to carry a POW, according to all statutes and ordinances,
- Park in a valid designated area; (DANG defines a valid designated parking area as any legal POV parking space).
- Personnel will not use POWs under any circumstances to aid Security Forces**
- POWs are **NOT** allowed on federal installations, i.e. Maxwell and Gunter AFB.

**\*\*This is the TAG's policy and it's not negotiable.\*\***

For additional information contact:

Senior Master Sgt. David E. Sellers, 187th Security Forces Manager at 334-394-7535 or [david.sellers@ang.af.mil](mailto:david.sellers@ang.af.mil)



# *Final Photo*



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

Before and after photos of the freshly painted F-4C Phantom II static display located in front of building 1502 at Dannelly Field, Ala.